(b) No Sir.

(c) The steps taken to prevent smuggling include strengthening of Border Security Force to reduce the gaps between the border outposts, intensified patrolling, erection of O P Towers along the international border and supply of night vision devices, binoculars etc. for better observations, patrolling in the revering areas etc.

Bids in fourth round of Exploration for Oil and Gas

2703. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the last date for submission of bids in the fourth round of exploration for oil and gas in India has been extended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the companies which had submitted bids in the three earlier rounds of exploration;

(d) whether any allotments have been made to any of those companies and if so, the particulars thereof; and

(e) whether any exploration is in progress as a result of first three round of exploration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The last date for submission of bids has been extended to 15.4.92 because of requests from various companies to allow them more time for evaluation of the blocks.

(c) and (d). In the First Round, British Petroleum, Phillips, Chevron, Texaco, Occidental and Deminex had submitted bid. Production sharing contract for only one block was signed with Chevron. In the Second Round, chevron had submitted bid but no contract was signed. In the Third Round, Chevron-Texaco, BHP, IPC, Shell, Amoco, Britoil and Albion had submitted bids. Production sharing contracts for nine blocks were signed with companies as shown below:-

Name of Companies	*Block for which contract were signed*
Chevron-Texaco	KG-OS-I, KG-OS-VII, P-GS-II and MN-OS-I
Amoco	KG-OS-V
Sheel	KK-OS-IV & KK-OS-II
BHP	KK-OS-VI
IPC	KG-OS-IV

(e) No, Sir.

Post Lying Vacant in Lakshadweep

2704. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts lying vacant in Union Territory of Lakshdweep, category-wise; and

(b) the action contemplated by the Union Government for filling up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The information is

being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

Ban of Fishing in Ganges

2705. SHRI P. M. SYEED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on fishing from Rajghat to Ramnagar in the Ganga;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was an agitation against this ban;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Indian Embassies and High Commissions

2706. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries where Indian Embassy/High Commission has opened during the last one year;

(b) the number of Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Head of Missions who were posted in Indian Missions abroad;

(c) the number out of them belongs to I.F.S., I.A.S., and other Central Services;

(d) the number out of them who are non-officials;

(e) the number of them belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities;

(f) whether any quota fixed for persons of these communities for appointment as Ambassadors or Heads of Missions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No resident Indian Mission has been opened during last one year.

(b) At present there are 93 Heads of Missions and %3 permanent Representatives of India to the United Nations Offices.

(c) and (d). 86 belongs to IFS. There are 10 others out of whom 4 are retired officers; from IAS (2), IPS (1) and IFS (1).

(e) There are 10 Heads of Missions who belong to Scheduled Caste Communities and 6 Heads of Mission belongs to Scheduled Tribes Communities.

(f) and (g). No quota is fixed for apointment of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe officers as Head of Mission.

[Translation]

Action Plan for Development of Naxalite Affected areas in Madhya Pradesh

2707. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any action plan to the Union Government for development of naxalite affected areas in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Central assistance is likely to be provide to the State for the implementation of the said plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?